

Remarks

The examiner's comments and applied and cited references have been carefully considered.

New claims have been added to more particularly point out the distinctive and inventive advantages of applicant's invention. The claims now present in the application are tailored to a machine for applying heat fusible cover layers to top and/or bottom surfaces of an insulation batt. The insulation batt is of a type that would be used in buildings (either residential or commercial). A closely allied method claim is directed to the process of an insulation batt and cover layers through such a machine. These claims are drafted so that they could not reasonably be in separate art areas, nor could they relate to other and materially different processes.

The previous claims were rejected by a combination of Yokokita et al '715 and Patel et al '057. Yokokita '715 does not produce an insulation batt faced on top and/or bottom surfaces with protective layers. It produces a glass fiber mat for a stampable sheet as shown in Fig. 3, and is quite unlike a continuous insulation batt.

Moreover, there is no disclaimer in '715 of electrical resistance heaters; indeed, the method of heating is not disclosed. Further, the sheets M of '715 are glass fiber mats which are laid together and fused with a thermoplastic resin film F between them. The only thing to be said about the '715 patent is that it discloses conveying through upper and/or lower belt conveyers, lengths of glass fibers for fusing together about a resin film core. The product from this is a stampable sheet.

Patel et al '057 is in the correct field, as it is for a facing system for a fiberglass insulation batt. The facing is a vapor barrier of coextruded polymer film which is fused to the fiberglass insulation batt. The pressing rolls 116 and 124 are heated.

However, applicant has not found the heated pressing roll method to be sufficient and developed the disclosed and claimed heated conveyor method for these facings for fiberglass insulation batts.

The examiner has said it would be obvious to combine the '715 and '057 patent disclosures to arrive at applicant's method because it is conventional in the art to use a pair of heated processing belts for heat fusing opposing covering films onto a glass fiber mat as exemplified by the teachings of Yokokita et al. This fallacy of the examiner's argument is that Yokokita does not disclose applying covering films. It discloses bonding a pair of glass fiber mats together about a heat fusible film core, and is the opposite of the structure and method of applicant's claims. Further, there is no disclosure in Yokokita of how the belts are heated, which is in itself, no small task. From Yokokita in Column 7, line 65, the reader understands that the blank is heated, and not the belts. From Column 6, lines 19-25, there is disclosure of "impregnating the resin by applying heat and pressure" but it is not disclosed how that is to be accomplished, either in the drawings or the written disclosure.

Accordingly, the application containing Claims 9 and 10 is believed in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that the above is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 18th day of June, 2004.


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